

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
AUBURN HILLS CLUB HOUSE
443 SOUTH 135TH WEST
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009
9:00 A.M.**

Present: Bryan Frye, Tom Roth, John Stevens, Andy Solter, Matt Goolsby

Absent: Glen Dey

Also Present: Council Member Janet Miller, Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Karen Walker, Assistant Director of Park and Recreation, Sharon Dickgrafe, Assistant City Attorney and Lee Ann Sack, staff.

Miller relinquished her position as President, Board of Park Commissioners due to her election as City of Wichita Council Member District VI.

Interim President Frye called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Miller was recognized for her 8 years of dedicated service to the Board of Park Commissioners. A plaque and flowers were presented to her on behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners and City of Wichita Park and Recreation. Frye will serve as Interim President until August or September elections.

PUBLIC AGENDA

None.

REGULAR AGENDA

Item 1: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Solter, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to approve the minutes from the Park Board meeting March 09, 2009.

Item 2A: Naming of 55th and Hydraulic Park

Kupper stated playground equipment has been installed at the site. Site is owned by Wichita Water Utilities. A Memorandum of Understanding is current to allow use as park purposes. Installment of walking paths and a parking lot is still intended. Solter and Kupper reminded the Board that this project started under the direction of Phil Lambke. Lambke served eight years on City of Wichita City Council and passed away this year. Solter asked about ADA access. Kupper said Park and Recreation is mindful of disability requirements and that all facilities are compliant with current regulations. Solter requested time to speak with Council Member Skelton (District III) for his recommendations. The Board agreed to place this item on the May 11, 2009 Park Board agenda.

Item 2B: Naming of Chapin Landfill

Construction is beginning at the Chapin Landfill located at 3800 South Hydraulic. Names will be considered by the Board of Park Commissioners, as naming authority. Stevens asked about additional building requirements due to the sealed landfill. Kupper stated construction plans accommodate those requirements. Solter requested time to consult with Council Member Skelton (District III) for suggestions. It is noted by the Board, the Chapin family donated the land and is well respected in that area of town. The Board agreed to place this item on the May 11, 2009 Park Board agenda.

Item 3A: CIP Update

The ten year plan was revisited and updated to reflect reductions in budget. Kupper and Walker reviewed CIP updates with the Board. Walker stated there still may be additional reductions required. This was information only with no action required from the Board.

Item 3B: Possible Budget Reductions

Kupper reminded the Board of the 15 current position vacancies in Park and Recreation. Pools will be closed on Monday's through this season. Frye asked if Monday was the slowest day for attendance. Kupper said the week-ends were slower due to the heavy use of day care centers during the week, but did not want to close pools to the public for week-ends. Syndeo has delayed hiring dates for grounds maintenance workers and lay off dates have been moved forward in the season. Pools will close the full day of rainy days, saving personnel expenses. Grass cutting crews will also be sent home on rainy days instead of using them for other endeavors. Some staff will shift duties to accommodate seasonal needs.

Kupper stated Budget considerations can still change with additional cuts required. This was information only with no action required from the Board.

Item 3C: Construction to Begin at Chapin Park

Walker and Kupper notified the Park Board that construction will begin at 3800 South Hydraulic in the next few weeks with a Fall completion date anticipated. Stevens asked if the Wichita Radio Control Club still used the park. Walker stated the Wichita Radio Control Club actively uses the park and all efforts will be made to accommodate their use during construction. Construction will include an entryway from MacArthur road, two shade shelters, parking lot, dog park with fencing, portable restroom enclosure and drinking fountain for people and pets. Oz Bike Club is considering the installation of dirt trails.

Item 4: Review of Pending Issues

None.

Item 5: Updates from the Director and Acting President

None.

Item 6: Issues on the Horizon

Dickgrafe recommended the Park Board review their Rules and Regulations. The last updates were made in 1985. Frye asked if these could be sent to Park Board members for their review before further action. Staff will distribute the Board of Park Commissioners Rules and Regulations to Board members for their review.

Kupper stated the Golf Advisory Committee will be making fee structure recommendations for golf course fee increases. Annual passes will be introduced. It is anticipated this will be brought before the Board at the May 11, 2009 meeting.

Miller stated she has had conversations with Hoyt Hillman about naturalizing portions of the riverbank for reduced maintenance and erosion control. He has made multiple presentations to various city officials and staff. Hillman has been advised to present his plan to the Park Board. Kupper advised staff to invite Hillman to the May 11, 2009 meeting.

Item 7: Adjourn

Frye adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

PARK BOARD RETREAT

Present: Bryan Frye, Tom Roth, John Stevens, Andy Solter, Matt Goolsby

Absent: Glen Dey

Also Present: Council Member Janet Miller, Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Karen Walker, Assistant Director of Park and Recreation, Lee Ann Sack, staff.

Interim President Frye called the Retreat to order at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Item 1: Review of 2008 Park Board Goals

Frye read the 2008 Park Board Goals;

2008 Park Board Goals

1. Continue to push forward, advocate for, and participate in the development of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan.
Continue
2. Develop a "Return on Investment" PowerPoint presentation that Park Board members will take out to community groups as a way to cultivate an understanding of – and support for – parks, recreation, and open space resources throughout the community.
Complete

3. Explore the possibility of – and options for – a dedicated funding source for Wichita’s parks, recreation, and open space system.
 - a. Investigate how other communities utilize and fund dedicated funding sources.
 - b. Determine at what levels other communities fund their PROS systems. What is the optimal funding level for Wichita?

Complete

4. Actively advocate for the Park and Recreation Department’s annual budget requests (SP and SAPs) and bi-annual CIP submission.
 - a. Learn about the budget process and gain a solid understanding of the annual submission.
 - b. Elevate the importance of the annual P&R budget and CIP submission among various groups.
 - c. Meet with individual City Council members about P/R budget and CIP submission.
 - d. Make presentations to DABs about the importance of P/R budget and CIP submission.
 - e. Discuss how to involve business community in supporting the budget and CIP submission.

Continue

5. Through the PROS Plan, explore and understand 1) what recreational facilities, services, and programs we offer, 2) where the gaps in service exist, and 3) how we can best allocate and advocate for dollars and resources in this area.

Complete

6. Continue to work on developing relationships with other city boards, committees, initiatives and departments.
 - a. Invite speakers from other departments/groups to present to the Board on topics related to parks, recreation, and open space.

On Going

Frye encouraged the Park Board Members to continue their advocacy of Parks. Miller asked the Park Board to more succinctly define their role in downtown revitalization. Goolsby suggested a Quarterly Status Report on PROS to be sent to Park Board Members. Walker stated she would work on providing that to the Board.

Item 2: Development of 2009 Park Board Goals

The following is the initial draft of 2009 Park Board Goals. The Goals are not in order of importance, but all are intended to be accomplished during the 2009 Calendar year.

1. Continue to push forward, advocate for, and participate in the development of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan.
 - A. Highlight successes initiated by the PROS Plan.
 1. Develop an annual report – State of the PROS
 2. Develop ways to utilize Channel 7.
 3. Develop a Quarterly Status Report for release to media outlets; Newspaper, District Advisory Boards, Neighborhood Associations.
 - B. Park Board Members will be actively engaged in the Downtown Development Plan.

- C. Build relationships, engage citizens and advocacy groups to participate in park projects and dedications.
 - D. Engage Youth by communicating in current technology. 'Twitter' the PROS Plan.
2. Actively advocate for the Park and Recreation Department's annual budget requests (SP and SAPs) and bi-annual CIP submission.
 - A. Learn about the budget process and gain a solid understanding of the annual submission.
 - B. Elevate the importance of the annual P&R budget and CIP submission among various groups.
 - C. Meet with individual City Council members about P/R budget and CIP submission.
 - D. Make presentations to District Advisory Board's about the importance of P/R budget and CIP submission.
 - E. Develop ways to involve the business community in supporting the budget and CIP submission.
 3. Continue to work on developing relationships with other city boards, committees, initiatives and departments.
 - A. Invite speakers from other departments/groups to present to the Board on topics related to parks, recreation, and open space.
 4. Plan New Board Orientation after new members have been selected.
 5. Invite Legislative Representatives and non-profit organizations to participate in the promotion of Parks.
 6. Review and Update Approved Rules and Regulations of the Board of Park Commissioners.
 7. Move toward more 'Green' policies and procedures associated with the Board of Park Commissioners. Apply 'Green' policies toward Riverbank maintenance and product usage.

Solter asked about promoting advocacy for a cycling friendly community. Kupper suggested the Park Board assign a member of Park Board to the committee to develop complete green street policy for the City of Wichita. Solter asked if a member of the steering committee would make a presentation to the Park Board at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Kupper stated he would find an appropriate person to present at the May 11, 2009 meeting.

Stevens asked if anyone was familiar with a Bike Commerce District. He explained this was an area of town that is specifically accessible for bicyclists, with shopping, bicycle storage and amenities. Solter and Miller thought this would be associated with the development of complete green streets. Stevens specified that the downtown area and arena would be a desirable place to implement such a concept.

Item 3: Adjourn

There being no other business, Frye adjourned the Retreat at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Bryan Frye, Interim President

Attest:

Lee Ann Sack, Recording Secretary